

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NOUAKC 00366 181025Z

14

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 USIA-15 OC-05 CCO-00 ABF-01 /028 W

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R 171620Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5146

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY ACCRA

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

UNCLAS NOUAKCHOTT 0366

ABIDJAN FOR RBFO; DAKAR FOR USIS AND C&R; ACCRA FOR RCO

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: AFSP AFIN ACOM MR

SUBJECT: USIS WIRELESS FILE SYSTEM FOR NOUAKCHOTT

REF: STATE 34628 (NOTAL)

1. MISSION IS PARTICULARLY GRATIFIED THAT AF/EX HAS DESIGNATED FUNDS TO ESTABLISH WIRELESS FILE SYSTEM IN NOUAKCHOTT. AS WE HAVE POINTED OUT ON NUMEROUS OCCASIONS, WE HAVE FREQUENTLY HAD TO POSTPONE DEMARCHES REQUESTED BY DEPARTMENT UNTIL ARRIVAL FROM USIS DAKAR OF POUCHED COPY OF WIRELESS FILE CONTAINING KEY POLICY DOCUMENTS AND FRENCH TRANSLATIONS. PROMPT RECEIPT OF WIRELESS FILE AT NOUAKCHOTT WOULD ELIMINATE THIS PROBLEM IN FUTURE. IN ADDITION, MISSION WOULD HAVE ACCESS TO LATEST NEWS AND INFORMATION FROM US SOURCE.

2. HAVING EXPRESSED, HOWEVER, OUR STRONG DESIRE TO RECEIVE WIRELESS FILE TELEGRAPHICALLY, WE WISH TO OBTAIN ONE CLARIFICATION AND EXPLORE SEVERAL ALTERNATIVE APPROACHES TO OUR WIRELESS FILE PROBLEM.

3. INITIATION OF WIRELESS FILE SYSTEM IN NOUAKCHOTT WILL GIVE RISE TO SUBSTANTIAL ANNUAL OPERATING EXPENSE THAT HAS NOT BEEN BUDGETED FOR. PRESUMABLY LOCAL POSITION MUST BE CREATED SO THAT FILE CAN BE RECEIVED

UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 02 NOUAKC 00366 181025Z

AND ASSEMBLED EACH DAY. DAILY RECEPTION OF FILE WILL

ALSO SUBSTANTIALLY INCREASE OUR USAGE OF 3-PLY OR 5-PLY PAPER. IN ADDITION, THERE WILL BE EXPENSES FOR TELETYPE SUPPLIES, MAINTENANCE COSTS, ELECTRICITY USAGE, ETC., ALL OF WHICH MUST BE TAKEN INTO CONSIDERATION BEFORE WIRELESS FILE SYSTEM BECOMES OPERATIONAL IN NOUAKCHOTT.

4. BEFORE SPENDING DOLS. 21,400 FOR ESTABLISHING SYSTEM AND BEFORE OBLIGATING OURSELVES TO SPEND SUBSTANTIAL SUMS ON ANNUAL OPERATING COSTS, WE URGE DEPARTMENT TO INVESTIGATE ALTERNATIVE METHODS OF PROVIDING US WITH KEY DOCUMENTS AND TRANSLATIONS NORMALLY TRANSMITTED BY WIRELESS FILE. FOR EXAMPLE, CAN TELETYPE TAPE, WHICH WE ASSUME IS USED IN TRANSMITTING WIRELESS FILE, BE CUT INTO SECTIONS AND THAT PORTION OF IT CONTAINING KEY DOCUMENTS BE TRANSMITTED BY STATE DEPARTMENT COMMUNICATIONS CENTER TO NOUAKCHOTT AND POSSIBLY OTHER MISSIONS WHICH DO NOT RECEIVE WIRELESS FILE? ALTERNATIVELY, COULD ONE OF WIRELESS FILE RECEIVERS LOCATED IN DAKAR BE OUTFITTED WITH MACHINE THAT CUTS TAPE AS IT RECEIVES WIRELESS FILE? IF THIS IS POSSIBLE, THEN USIS DAKAR COULD CLIP THAT PORTION OF TAPE CONTAINING KEY DOCUMENT, SEND IT TO DAKAR COMMUNICATIONS CENTER, AND TRANSMIT IT TO NOUAKCHOTT AS THOUGH IT WERE A TELEGRAM FROM DAKAR TO NOUAKCHOTT. HARD COPIES COULD THEN BE PRODUCED ON OUR ASR. IN BOTH INSTANCES, USIS DAKAR WOULD CONTINUE TO POUCH COMPLETE WIRELESS FILE TO US ON REGULAR BASIS.

5. WE RAISE THESE POSSIBLE ALTERNATIVES--THERE MAY WELL BE BETTER ONES--SOLELY IN THE INTEREST OF MAKING MAXIMUM USE OF LIMITED DEPARTMENT FUNDS. IF NEITHER OF THE IDEAS SUGGESTED PARA 4 ABOVE IS FEASIBLE AND IF THE DEPARTMENT IS UNABLE TO SUGGEST ANY OTHER ALTERNATIVE, WE WISH TO GO AHEAD WITH ESTABLISHING WIRELESS FILE IN NOUAKCHOTT AS LONG AS WE HAVE ASSURANCES THAT FUNDS WILL BE FORTHCOMING FOR REGULAR OPERATING COSTS. IF LESS EXPENSIVE ALTERNATIVE CAN BE FOUND WHICH WILL PERMIT US TO RECEIVE TELEGRAPHICALLY KEY POLICY DOCUMENTS AND TRANSLATIONS, WE URGE THIS COURSE BE FOLLOWED IN UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 NOUAKC 00366 181025Z

INTERESTS OF COST EFFECTIVENESS.HANDYSIDE

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